

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on June 12, 2007 in the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests amendment of the above-identified application in the manner identified above and that the patent be granted in view of the arguments presented. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Present Status of Application

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Namikawa et al (US 5,600,203, hereinafter "Namikawa") in view of Ellison et al (US 20020079611, hereinafter "Ellison"). Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Namikawa in view of Ellison and in further view of Yakou et al (US 5,855,637, hereinafter "Yakou"). Claims 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Namikawa in view of Ellison and in further view of Guenther et al (US 6,949,880, hereinafter "Guenther").

In this paper, claim 1 is amended to recite that the magnetic spacers are completely comprised of magnetic materials. Support the limitations can be found, for example, on page 5, lines 13-20 of the specification. Claim 25 is amended to recite that the electrostatic force lifts the spacers and brings them into contact with the inductive chuck. Support the limitations can be found, for example, on page 5 of the specification. Claims 6-9 and 26 are canceled. Thus, on entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 14-25, and 27-29 remain in the application.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks contained below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1, 2 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of Namikawa, Ellison, Yakou, and Guenther. To the extent that the grounds of the rejections may be applied to the claims now pending in this application, they are respectfully traversed.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).

"All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

Claims 1, 2, 14-24

As amended, claim 1 recites a method of repositioning display spacers using inductive attraction, comprising:

- providing magnetic spacers, ***wherein the magnetic spacers are completely comprised of magnetic materials;***

- providing an inductive chuck to attract the magnetic spacers by magnetic force, wherein a voltage is applied to the inductive chuck and the magnetic spacers are lifted by the inductive chuck, wherein the magnetic spacers directly contact the inductive chuck;

- providing a substrate;

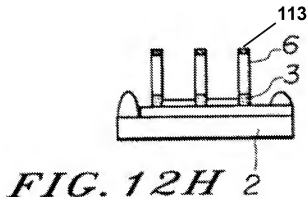
- aligning the spacers with desired positions on the substrate; and

- interrupting the voltage applied to the inductive chuck, wherein the magnetic spacers directly contact the substrate.

In the rejections, the Examiner identifies the combination of glass pattern 3/glass fiber bundle pieces 6/Ni element 113 of Namikawa as the alleged "magnetic spacers" of claim 1. The Examiner goes on to state that the combination of glass pattern 3/glass fiber bundle pieces 6/Ni element 113 as a "spacer" directly contacts the alleged "inductive chuck" (i.e., glass substrate 7), and the alleged "substrate" (i.e., anode substrate 2). See page 3 of the Office action.

In the rejection of claim 7 (now incorporated into claim 1), the Examiner states that Namikawa teaches that "the spacers (3, 6, 113) are completely comprised of magnetic materials." Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. Namikawa teaches "a Ni element 113 is formed on one end of each of the sliced glass fiber bundle pieces 6." Col. 10, lines 58-59. In particular, glass fiber bundle pieces 6 are produced by slicing a bundle of glass fibers bound in resin. Col. 10, lines 53-57. Furthermore, glass pattern 3 is described as being formed from low-softening glass.

Fig. 12H marked up to include reference number 113 is reproduced below to illustrate the arrangement of elements 3/6/113:



Thus, the alleged "magnetic spacer" 3/6/113 is in fact comprised primarily of glass, a non-magnetic material. Applicant therefore submits that Namikawa fails to teach the step of providing magnetic spacers, wherein the magnetic spacers are **completely** comprised of magnetic materials, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, given that the Namikawa disclosure is directed to a method of arranging glass fibers, there is no motivation to replace sliced glass fiber bundle pieces 6 with another material.

Finally, Applicant notes that the limitations of claims 23-24 do not appear to be addressed in the Office action.

It is therefore Applicant's belief that even when taken in combination, the prior art references relied upon by the Examiner do not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. For at least this reason, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established in connection with these claims. Furthermore, as it is Applicant's belief that a *prima facie* case of obviousness is not established for claim 1, the Examiner's arguments in regard to the dependent claims are not addressed here. Allowance of claims 1, 2, 14-24 is respectfully requested.

Claims 25, 27-29

As amended, claim 25 recites a method of repositioning display spacers using inductive attraction, comprising:

- providing spacers made of electrostatic materials;
- providing an inductive chuck to attract the spacers by electrostatic force, wherein a voltage is applied to the inductive chuck and the spacers are lifted by the inductive chuck, wherein the spacers directly contact the inductive chuck, ***wherein the electrostatic force lifts the spacers and brings them into contact with the inductive chuck;***
- providing a substrate;
- aligning the spacers with desired positions on the substrate; and
- interrupting the voltage applied to the inductive chuck, wherein the spacers directly contact the substrate.

The Examiner rejects claims 25 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Namikawa in view of Ellison and Guenther. Namikawa teaches relocating a glass fiber by magnetic force. Ellison teaches applying and interrupting a voltage to control the clamping force of an inductive chuck. Guenther discloses the use of electrostatic force to prevent spacer agglomeration on the substrate. However, none of Namikawa, Ellison or Guenther teach or suggest relocating a spacer by electrostatic force. Namely, there is no suggestion in the prior to replace the magnetic force of Namikawa with electrostatic force. In particular, whether taken alone or in combination, the references fail to teach or suggest the electrostatic force lifts the spacers and brings them into contact with the inductive chuck.

It is therefore Applicant's belief that even when taken in combination, the prior art references relied upon by the Examiner do not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 25. For at least this reason, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established in connection with these claims. Furthermore, as it is Applicant's belief that a *prima facie* case of obviousness is not established for claim 25, the Examiner's arguments in regard to the dependent claims are not addressed here. Allowance of claims 25 and 27-29 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests so. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. **502447**.

Respectfully submitted,

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